



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FORMER PRESIDENT OF PRO NET LINK CORPORATION SENTENCED TO PRISON IN CONNECTION WITH \$20 MILLION STOCK FRAUD -- Ordered to forfeit 3 New York properties and \$940,000 in cash --

NEWARK, NJ.- Jean Pierre Collardeau, the former president of Pro Net Link Corporation, was sentenced today to 50 months in federal prison for conspiring with at least 12 other individuals to engage in an elaborate scheme to defraud investors of more than \$20 million, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge William G. Bassler also ordered Collardeau, 63, to forfeit to the United States three New York housing units, with a total estimated value in excess of \$3 million, and more than \$940,000 in cash, which he turned over at the sentencing. The value of the forfeited properties and cash will be made available to defrauded investors.

Collardeau, a French citizen who resides in New York City, remains confined to his home with electronic monitoring until he surrenders to the federal Bureau of Prisons on a date to be determined, usually within 90 days of sentencing.

"This sentencing and asset forfeiture send a powerful message that defrauding investors and laundering money overseas does not pay," said Bill Reid, Special Agent in Charge of the Philadelphia office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "The conspirators in this case bilked investors out of more than \$20 million. The combined efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement and foreign agencies brought this elaborate scheme crashing down around them."

At his plea hearing in August 2004, Collardeau admitted that he conspired with others to create Pro Net Link (PNLK) as a public company, and agreed with them to issue millions of shares of PNLK stock in the names of co-conspirators in order to conceal their scheme from the investing public. Collardeau admitted that he secretly controlled millions of dollars worth of PNLK stock that was issued in the names of foreign nominees Nicole Peignier, Martine Meillot, Eric Niger, Muriel Prochasson, and foreign companies Able Investments, Ltd., Project Finance, Ltd., and Whitehall Investments. Collardeau also admitted that he issued a large block of PNLK stock to a fictitious

identity, Robert Sambou, that was created in furtherance of the scheme. Collardeau admitted that these shares were then deposited into nominee accounts in Canada, which he and his conspirators controlled.

Collardeau admitted that in March 1998, he and others entered into an agreement with Irving Freiberg and Irving Stitsky to tout PNLK to the investing public in order to spark interest and greater demand for the company's stock. Freiberg and Stitsky, were told by Collardeau, along with others, that they secretly controlled almost all the free-trading PNLK stock held in nominee names in brokerage accounts in Canada. Collardeau admitted that in return for their promotion, Freiberg and Stitsky were to receive a significant percentage of the profits from the sale of PNLK stock through the nominee accounts. He also admitted that this arrangement was concealed from the investing public through the creation and execution of a sham contract, wherein Freiberg and Stitsky purportedly were to receive only \$50,000. Collardeau admitted that Freiberg and Stitsky ultimately received \$5.8 million for their efforts.

Collardeau also admitted that in furtherance of the fraudulent scheme, and while under oath, he failed to disclose to the Securities Exchange Commission his partnership with two other unindicted co-conspirators, and the fraudulent nature of his activities. He also admitted that he and his co-conspirators filed false reports and forms with the SEC in order to conceal their fraudulent activities. Freiberg is awaiting sentencing following his guilty to one count of securities fraud. Others involved in the conspiracy also await sentencing.

Collardeau admitted that ultimately in excess of \$20 million was deposited into various nominee accounts and that he personally used some of those funds to purchase three New York housing units. Collardeau pleaded guilty to Count One of the three-count Indictment that charges conspiracy to commit securities fraud.

Christie credited Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Bill Reid. Christie also gave special acknowledgment to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, New York Regional Office, under the direction of Mark K. Schonfeld, Regional Director of the Commission's Northeast Regional Office; and the British Columbia Securities Commission; and the Federal Office of Justice, Swiss Central Authority; and the Office of International Affairs, Department of Justice. The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mauro Wolfe, of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Newark.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.